

Dundee 1850
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CONSTITUTION

AND

REGULATIONS

OF THE

DUNDEE WATT INSTITUTION,

WITH THE

AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY THE COMMITTEE,

AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED OF AT A MEETING

OF DELEGATES FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS

IN DUNDEE.

[The suggested amendments are printed in *Italics*.]

DUNDEE :
PRINTED BY JAMES CHALMERS, CASTLE STREET.

MDCCCL.

Dundee Watt Institution.

THIS Institution was established in the year 1824, for the dissemination of useful information among all classes at a cheap rate, and is supported by donations, subscriptions, and the sale of tickets.

THE MEANS OF INSTRUCTION ARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. LECTURES.

Lectures on Scientific, Literary, and Moral Subjects, are delivered in the Hall of the Institution on Wednesday evenings, for about eight months in the year. Each Lecture commences at eight o'clock.

2. LIBRARY.

The Library consists of about 3100 volumes of books in the various departments of Literature. The Library Room is open on the evenings of Tuesday and Friday, between the hours of seven and nine, for giving out and taking in books.

3. MUSEUM.

The Museum is composed of a great variety of Natural and Artificial Curiosities, and is kept open in the Institution Buildings.

Terms.

Session Ticket, 6s.; Half Session, 3s.; Quarter Session, 1s. 6d.

Ladies' Tickets for the Session, 4s.; Half Session, 2s.

Apprentices' Ticket for the Session, 4s.; Half Session, 2s.; Quarter Session, 1s.

Donations of Books, Curiosities, &c., will be thankfully received.

CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS, &c.

I. The Directors shall have power to fix the Subscription, entitling any person to become a Member of the Institution—to have the use of the Library and Museum, and to attend the ordinary Lectures, at any sum not exceeding six shillings per annum, three shillings per half-year, or one shilling and sixpence per quarter.

II. A donation of five pounds or more shall entitle any person to become a Member of the Institution for his lifetime, to attend the Lectures and Classes, and to have the privileges of the Library.

III. A donation of ten pounds from any public body shall entitle that public body to appoint a Member of the Institution yearly, who shall have all the privileges of it free of expense; and, for each additional donation of ten pounds, such public body shall be entitled to appoint an additional Member.

IV. The Institution shall be managed by eighteen Directors, five of whom, at the least, shall be master tradesmen, merchants, or others, not operative tradesmen, and five of whom shall be operative tradesmen. The Directors shall be elected from among the Members by ballot at a general meeting, on the first Monday of May annually, in manner following:—The Members present shall nominate a number of candidates, not less than eighteen, nor more than thirty-six; one-fourth part of whom, at the least, shall be master tradesmen, merchants, or others, not operative tradesmen, and one-fourth part of whom shall be operative tradesmen; but no Member shall nominate more than one candidate, and no Member having been a Director for the past year shall be allowed to nominate any of the Members for Directors for the ensuing year, and no Director shall be re-elected more than twice in succession. If any candidate be objected to, a vote of the meeting shall be taken whether or not he shall stand in nomination. When the candidates are nominated, and their names placed on the ballot boxes, two Members shall be appointed to superintend the balloting. Then each Member present shall receive eighteen ballots or tickets from the chairman of the meeting, and shall put one ballot or ticket in each of the boxes on which the names of the candidates

for whom he votes are placed. The eighteen candidates who have the greatest number of votes shall be the Directors, provided not less than five of them be master tradesmen, merchants, or others, not operative tradesmen, and not less than five of them operative tradesmen. If there be not so many as five master tradesmen, merchants, or others, not operative tradesmen, among the eighteen who had the greatest number of votes, then the operative tradesman or tradesmen who had the smallest number of votes, shall give place to the master tradesmen, merchants, or others, not operative tradesmen, who had the greatest number of votes; and if there be not so many as five operative tradesmen among the eighteen who had the greatest number of votes, then the master tradesman or tradesmen, merchants, or others, not operative tradesmen, who had the smallest number of votes, shall give place to the operative tradesman or tradesmen who had the greatest number of votes; and such master tradesmen, &c., or operative tradesmen, as the case may be, shall be declared to be elected accordingly. But if any Member or Members who are elected to the office of Director refuse to act, those of his or their class who had the next greatest number of votes shall be appointed in their places. Should it occur, however, that the list of those proposed as Directors, either by resignation or any other cause, shall have been exhausted, the remaining Directors shall have power to fill up any vacancy that may occur from among the Members of the Institution.

V. *The general annual meeting shall also elect three Auditors from the Members; they shall nominate six persons, and proceed in a similar manner as for the election of Directors, by ballot boxes and tickets. Those three having the highest number of votes shall be declared elected; but a register of the votes shall be kept, and in case any vacancies shall occur in the number of those elected, their places shall be supplied by those of the other three who had the highest number of votes.*

VI. *The Auditors shall examine and audit all the books, accounts, and other documents connected with the property and funds of the Institution, and adhibit their names to an Abstract thereof, to be laid before the next general annual meeting; and the Directors shall have all such books and accounts, &c., in readiness for their inspection, at least eight days before the meeting.*

VII. *The general annual meeting shall be bound, after the reading and adoption of the Report, to proceed at once to the election of Directors and Auditors, before any other business can come before them.*

VIII. The Directors shall meet together the day after their election, and chose one of their number to be President, and another to be Vice-President, for the year. In the absence of the President and Vice-President at any meeting those present shall elect a Chairman for that meeting. The Directors shall hold a meeting on the first Monday of every month, or oftener if necessary; the President or any two of the other Directors having authority to call a meeting at any time, on giving twenty-four hours' notice; but, unless there be *nine* or more present, no business shall be done at any meeting. A majority of the votes of the Directors present shall decide any question; and, in case of an equality of votes, the Chairman for the time shall have a casting vote.

IX. The Directors shall appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian, from among the Members of the Institution. These office-bearers to have salaries or not as the Directors shall judge expedient: They shall appoint as many Committees from among their own number and the rest of the Members as they may consider necessary for properly conducting the business of the Institution.

X. The Directors shall engage Lecturers and Teachers for the Institution, to commence their duties on the first Monday of October annually, or at any other time that may be fixed by the General Meeting. They shall also provide accommodation for the Institution, until there be a building belonging to it; and they shall procure what apparatus may be necessary for illustrating the Lectures, and such books as may be considered proper for the Library.

XI. The Directors shall give in a full report of their proceedings to the General Meeting of the Members on the first Monday of May annually, including a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the past year, *audited and signed by the three Auditors appointed for that purpose*; an account of what books and apparatus have been provided; and everything else that relates to the affairs of the Institution. *The Secretary shall also prepare and annex to the Report an Abstract*

from the minute-book of the monthly and other meetings held by the Directors, stating the names of those Directors present at all such meetings.

XII. When the Directors are of opinion that the funds of the Institution are sufficient for erecting or purchasing a building for the accommodation of the Institution, they shall call a General Meeting of the Members,—notice of the time and purpose of the meeting being given by advertisement in the Dundee newspapers, at least one week before it takes place. If a majority of those present at the meeting resolve that a building shall be erected or purchased, the Directors shall have power to erect or purchase a building accordingly: But no resolution of a majority of the Members, or of the Directors, to borrow money, or to contract debts for which there are not funds in hand, shall be binding on the other Members who do not agree thereto.

XIII. Should any Member be guilty of any outrage or improper conduct in the Institution, and a request be presented to the Directors for his dismissal, the Directors shall, on investigation, have authority to deprive such Member of all the privileges of the Institution.

XIV. *If any Member should feel aggrieved, having been deprived of any part of his rights as a Member of the Institution, he shall be allowed to complain thereof to a monthly meeting of the Directors, provided such complaint be lodged within six weeks of the time when such grievance took place, and that the grievance be certified by other two Members of the Institution, and notice of said complaint have been given to the party or parties implicated or charged therein, at least three days before such meeting of Directors; then the Chairman of that meeting shall cause a Sub-Committee of the Directors to be appointed to investigate the case and give redress.*

XV. No alteration shall be made on the Constitution or Regulations of the Institution, except it be agreed to by a majority of the Members present at a General Meeting called for the purpose,—notice of the time and purpose of the meeting being given by advertisement in at least one of the Dundee newspapers, at least one week before it takes place, and a copy of the advertisement sent as a circular to all the Members residing in Dundee. But if one-fourth or more of

the Members present dissent from the proposed alteration, it shall be in their power, on presenting a requisition to the President, to have the matter reconsidered at another meeting two weeks afterwards; and, if then approved of by a majority of the Members present, such alteration shall become valid.

XVI. The Directors shall be bound at any time, on the requisition, in writing, of any thirty Members, to call a General Meeting of the Institution, provided that the requisition shall specify the business to be brought before the Meeting; but if the objects of the requisitionists shall be disapproved of by a majority of the General Meeting, the requisitionists shall in that case be liable in the expense attending the calling of such Meeting.

XVII. The Institution shall not be dissolved without the consent of nine-tenths of the Members present at two General Meetings called for the purpose,—intimation of the Meetings being given one month previously by advertisements in the Dundee newspapers, and the second Meeting to be held four weeks after the first: And, in the event of a dissolution being agreed on, the Provost of Dundee, the Dean of Guild, the Convener and Deacons of the Nine Trades, the Convener and Deacons of the Three United Trades, and the Boxmaster of the Seamen Fraternity, or a majority of these office-bearers, shall have power to sell the property and divide the funds among the charitable institutions of Dundee, or apply them in such a way as they consider best for promoting the original object of the WATT INSTITUTION.

XVIII. *If a number of the Members shall wish to have a Class or Classes, and shall present a requisition to the Directors to that effect, signed by at least twenty Members, binding themselves to support such Class or Classes, the Directors shall provide accommodation, and grant the use of such apparatus as the Institution is possessed of; but those attending such Classes shall pay a fee sufficient to provide for the Teacher's salary.*

LIBRARY REGULATIONS.

1st, *The Directors shall cause a supply of Catalogues to be kept on hand, to be paid for by those Members who require them, and a few copies to lie on the Library table.*

2d, *The Directors shall cause a book to be kept in the Library, accessible to all the Members of the Institution, in which shall be entered the names and addresses of all the Members, with the dates of the commencement and termination of their membership.*

3d, *The Librarian shall keep a book in which shall be entered the names of all applicants for any book that may be out of the Library when applied for, with the date of each application, and the applicants shall be served with such book in the same order in which their names stand for it; that, in case a number of applications shall have been registered for the same book, the applicants may ascertain what number of readers claim before them, and on what day the book will be at their service. But if any applicant shall neglect to call for the book on the day that it falls due to him, he may lose a part or the whole of the time allowed for reading it; and, in the latter case, he can only obtain it by a subsequent application.*

4th, *Should any Member fail to return any book at the proper time, the Librarian shall have power to send a special messenger to such Member to demand the return of such book; and that Member shall be liable for the expense of such message, in addition to any other penalty. The Librarian shall be required to put up notices to that effect in the Library Room.*

A PUBLIC MEETING of the INHABITANTS will be held in the HALL of the INSTITUTION, on *Tuesday evening, 30th April*, at eight o'clock, for the purpose of ascertaining what support the Institution would receive if these Amendments were incorporated in the Constitution.

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